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THE WEATHER.

Washington, Feb. 20.-For Oklahoma and Indian Territory: Probably fair; winds shifting to northwest, and cooler. For Kansas: Fair, followed by threatening weather in southwestern portion; north winds; colder.

Missouri: Fair, probably followed by local showers in nouthern portion; north winds, and colder.

BAILWAY EARNINGS AND TAXES. President Blackstone, of the Chleage & Alten Railroad Company, in his report for 1898, with some comparisons, gives a pointed illustration of the decreased earnings and increased taxations of the railroads during the past few years. The figures should be carefully perused by those who have the anti-railroad mania.

The report of the Chicago & Alton should be a particularly reliable criterion, for the road has had no change of mileage in seventeen years. A statement covering these years shows that the carnings have varied from time to time, but that since 1887 they have been on a steady decrease, with the exception of the past year, when there was a triffing increase over the earnings of the previous year. But the taxes have increased each year since 1889, when they were \$147,-413. The taxes for 1890 were \$315,745, an increase of 114 per cent. The net earnings of \$2,801,736. In other words, seventeen years earnings, and in 1895, 11.27 per cent. While some allowance must be made for the increased value of permanent improvements, this growth in value cannot account for the increase of 114 per cent in the taxes on the property.

Taking such statistics into consideration one does not need to be a bloated monopolist or the servant of a bloated monopolist to see clearly that there is no equity in the proposed decrease of from 20 to 30 per cent in railroad rates-a reduction that has been contemplated in half a dozen Western states this year.

THE BOY ORATOR'S INCONSISTEN-CIES.

It is difficult to comprehend how W. J. Bryan ever secured or how he retains a provement. eputation for being a thinker and an orator, in the light of his reckiess and illogical utterances. At Topekn, on Friday, the Nebraska man delivered a free sliver the only reason silver bullion is now so low in market price is because the American nation has demonstized it. To clinch this remarkable statement he added that the only thing necessary to bring the value of every ounce of silver back to \$1.29 was for the American nation to remonetize it. · To state his proposition in another way,

the remainder of the earth had nothing whatever to do with fixing the value of silver. They might monetize it or demonetize it at their own good pleasure without any effect whatever, for to the United States is reserved the power and the right to say what it shall be worth the world over. This is the logic of Mr. Bryan's proposition, and we are taking no unfair or quibbling advantage of what he said upon the subject. It is very much a question whether all

the nations of the earth acting in concert could add an appreciable value to silver as a commodity simply by enlarging its money use, for increased production would be stimulated in a manner likely to overcome all advantage which might be secured in such enlarged use, and certainly the United States alone cannot do it. If the act of remonetizing silver in the United States is sufficient to raise the price of each ounce to \$1.39, why did not the act of demonetizing it reduce its value in a like ratio? Commencing along in the early seventies, twenty-four countries besides the United States demonstized silver and adopted the gold standard. They included nearly every civilized nation of the globe and ali of the nations of any commercial importance. What was the result? Up to 1500. all of these nations had by demonetization succeeded in reducing the commodity value of sliver only about 25 cents per ounce, and yet Mr. Bryan says that the United States plone can add 60 odd cents to its value by a simple turn of the wrist.

But an argument is not needed to convince those who heard Mr. Bryan at Topeka of the illogical status of his financial propositions. He gave his own case away in a manner which could be penetrated by a schoolboy. "Silver was struck down," said he, "and all that is necessary to build it up ngain is to give it an even chance with gold. They tell you that commerce rules the price of silver; I tell you that with free and unlimited coinage it will go to an equal price with gold and stay there. Why, my friends, before it was deprived of equal rights with gold, it was worth 3 cents on the dollar more than gold."

Think of that statement from a man who was facing an intelligent audience and arguing that a free coinage act would lift the value of silver from 50 old cents to a dollar! Why didn't a free colunge act lift the value of gold those missing 3 cents? If a law on the statute book cannot add 3 cents to the value of one commodity, how in the name of all that's reasonable could the same law add 50 cents to the value of another similar commodity?

Still another proposition which bewildered that Topeka sudience was the claim by Mr. Bryan that free coinage would make prices go up and property take on an enhanced value. If free coinage is to make silver go up to the price of gold, will it not then be-

dear one cannot be made out of the same piece of metal by the same act.

IMPORTED AFFLICTIONS. It sometimes pays to let well enough to this country some years ago to eat up the worms which were destroying trees in city parks. Since then the English sparrow

possession of the entire country, driven out all the native song birds and become a nuisance impossible to abate. A new species of hyacinth was brought into Florida not a great while ago as a are so choked with hyacinth that naviga-

tion is impeded, and Florida's representatives in congress have been endeavoring to secure an appropriation to rid them of the growth. A few years ago a Boston entomologist

mported a handful of gypsy moths to add to his collection. Some of them escaped, and the state of Massachusetts has since expended half a million dollars in fighting gypsy moths, and will have to spend at least a million more before the pest is exterminated. The legislature has been asked for appropriations of \$200,000 a year for the next five years for this purpose.

California fruit growers were much troubled by the devastations of an insect called the black scale. Finally the state obtained from Australia a little beetle which devours the black scale. The damages from this source have consequently been much diminished; but the beetle is thriving so well and spreading so rapidly that fears are entertained of its becoming a greater pest than the insect it preys on.

Half a dozen rabbits were imported into Australia from England. The Australian government has ever since had a robust rabbit problem on its hands. Millions have been spent in trying to eradicate the evil, with the result that each succeeding year there are a few million more rabbits than the year before. Handsome prizes have been offered by the government to inventors and scientists who would find a way to relieve the country of its affliction, but so far without success.

OUR FIGHTING WEIGHT.

If the fortunes of naval warfare depended on the effectiveness of torpedo boat service the United States would be about the weakest country on the globe. Unquestionably torpedo boats are entitled to great consideration in estimating the 1880 were \$3,477,984, while those for 1896 were strength of navies; this is clearly shown by the large number of these vessels in ago the Alton was taxed 4.24 per cent of its the equipment of great maritime powers. Great Britain and France each have 250 torpedo boats, Russia has 233, Italy has 191, Germany has 185, Japan has 134. Austria and Spain are also well supplied. The United States has but forty, and this includes those now under construction.

Fortunately navies do not consist exclusively of torpedo boats. Our battleships, though by no means as numerous as those of some of the European powers, are sufficient in number and potency to be re garded as formidable, and our cruisers are as fast and serviceable as any on the seas While our fleet would hardly take first or even fifth prize at a world's navy show, yet it is much better and stronger than it has been for a good many years past and the country may well be proud of its im-

This country happily doesn't need a great navy or great standing army like those maintained in Europe. We are sufficiently isolated geographically to be able the governor of Arkansas in opposition speech, in the course of which he said that to take good breaths without fear of displacing something and shattering the peace of the world. We don't have to lie awake nights to see what our envious or greedy neighbors are up to.

And still, with our comparatively insignificant preparation for war, we enjoy the profound respect of all nations. Nobody wants to pick a quarrel with us. There is not a government in Europe, no matter how fine its navy or how big its army, but would walk a dozen blocks out of its way to avoid a hostile collision with Uncle Sam.

A BILL WITH AN OBNOXIOUS CLAUSE. There is more cause for disgust than clarm in one provision of the compulsory

education bill that has been engrossed in the Missouri house without a dissenting vote. The bill provides that all children in the state between the ages of 8 and 16 years shall be compelled to attend the public schools at least sixteen weeks each year, and that in case any other school is preferred by a child, its parents or guardian the system of education must be the same as is in effect in the public schools.

The point of unique interest in this bill s not the right or the wrong, the efficacy or the futility of compulsory education. This question, in all its bearings, has been dispassionately and intelligently argued for many years, and the general conclusion is that such requirements as shall not work hardships upon those they are intended directly or indirectly to benefit should be enforced in the matter of the education of hildren.

But the bill in question is so crude in its general form, and so obnoxious in one of its clauses, that it seems strange it should have been even informally considered without calling out a protest. While it is probable that some were misled by the ostensible purpose and the comprehensive title of the measure, it is likewise quite clear that its promoters knew the full bearing of the proposed law and intended it as a direct blow to the Catholic schools of the state.

It is given out by one of the representa tives that the bill is supported by a certain secret society. However this may be, it is only necessary to read the bill in order to see clearly that by requiring all children to be taught under the system in vogue in the public schools it is intended to cut off the parochial institutions where religious teaching is a part of the education of the children.

There is little danger that our legislators will put themselves and their state on record as so flagrantly discriminating against the religious rights of the people. It would not be more unjust to legislate against the employment of a private tutor, where there is a preference for home instruction as against public teaching and its attendant mingling of children of all classes

THE NEW IMMIGRATION LAW.

Unless President Cleveland vetoes the new immigration bill, as it is believed he may, the country will have a much more radical restrictive measure than ever before, though it falls far short of what a great many thoughtful people believe it should be.

As amended, the bill bears but little resemblance to the original measure as income just as valuable a deliar as the gold troduced, and every modification has been dollar? Can corn and town lots be ad- in the interests of the proposed immigrant. vanced by putting more value into silver? In its present shape it excludes all foreign-

Most assuredly not, and Mr. Bryan and all ers over 16 years of age who can not read of his free silver following ought to get and write the English or some other lanthe simple proposition through their thick guage. Those who pass the educational financial heads that a cheap dollar and a test, however, are entitled to bring along their illiterate wives and minor children, and their illiterate parents or grandparents if over 50 years of age. The bill also interdicts the coming of "birds of passage," but a clause in it permits the secretary of the alone. The English sparrow was imported | treasury to admit aliens for the purpose of eaching new arts or industries.

For the purpose of testing the eligibility of an immigrant, he is compelled to read has grown so numerous that it has taken and write twenty-five words of the United States constitution.

There are special provisions in the act designed to protect the country against people who come in from border countries, such as Canada or Mexico, with no intencuriosity. Now several rivers of that state | tion of becoming citizens, but simply to secure employment. They read as follows: Section 4. That it shall hereafter be un-

lawful for any male alien who has not in good faith made his declaration before the proper court of his intention to become itizen of the United States to be employed on any public works of the United States or to come regularly or habitually into the United States by land or water for the purpose of engaging in any mechanical trade or manual labor for wages or salary, returning from time to time to a foreign country

"Section 5. That it shall be unlawful for my person, partnership, company or corporation knowingly to employ any alien oming into the United States in violation of the next preceding section of this act. Provided, that the provisions of this act shall not apply to the employment of sailors, deckhands or other employes of vessels, or rallroad trainhands, such as conductors, engineers, brakemen, firemen or baggagemen, whose duties require them to over the frontier to reach the termini of their runs, or to boatmen or guides on the lakes and rivers on the northern border of the United States."

Attached to these two provisions are double penalties. First a fine of \$500 and imprisonment is fixed for the visitor who comes in contrary to law, and then a like punishment for the person or corporation which shall furnish him employment.

A special provision is made which exempts from all of the penalties and restrictions Cuban refugees who come into the country while the present war is in prog-

After the Kansas Populists get through crippling the educational institutions and bankrupting the corporations they will probably issue an address denouncing the Eastern press for keeping homeseckers and capital out of the state with their infamous slanders.

Senator Wolcott says he is much encouraged by his reception and treatment in Europe. The expectations Mr. Wolcott took with him when he set sail must have been a few shades darker than Egyptian gloom

According to a Topeka paper Bryan's speeches in that city "fairly bristled with nconsistencies." If that is true, Bryan is improving. In his campaign efforts he was the Confederate raiders. consistently and persistently wrong.

The persistency with which Senator Gray pursues the trust companies excites a sus picion that some trust company has compelled a man of the name of Gray to pay

Senator Lyons, of Jackson county, is or posed to the university endowment bill, and there are many other reasons for believing the measure is a good one.

The trusts don't own this country; a the test the people have determined to apply.

Those who are working for the success of he came into a very handson the arbitration treaty are now able to quote

At the age of 23 Mrs. Susan Stewart, of Wichita, has a full set of natural and unblemished teeth.

A Salvation Army advertisement in the Arkansas City Traveler reads as follows: "Red Eagle, a converted Indian of the Huron pation, will speak, sing and beat the tom-tom for Jesus at the barracks on Friday night."

Senator Forney has destroyed what little friendliness yet remained for him in the state senate. When his fool interest bill was knocked out on Friday by the votes of his own party, he jumped up and shout-"Capitalists and corporations in this state may rest easy and have no fear, for we have a senate here which is looking after their interests."

Scmething must have been the matter with David Overmyer at the Topeka Bry-an meeting. He didn't work in anywhere that mush of his about "a singer, singing ever sweet."

"Hello, Bryan," said Ed Little as the boy orator walked into the executive depart-ment. And then the Pop legislators who had been salaaming so low that their brows left marks in the dust looked hot-

There is a woman in Northern Kansas who is the mother of nine sons who are preachers, and she is superlatively happy except when she looks reproachfully over at her husband, who is only a deacon.

It has been discovered that the petition presented in the Kansas legislature from Doniphan county protesting against Cy Leland remaining in office forever mostly a fraud. Many of the alleged signers are dead and about half of the live ones declare that their names were forzed It is also discovered that instead of 1,100 names it contains less than 400. Cy Leland says Fred Close engineered the

In view of the 4,000,000 bushels raised by that county Mr. Killcorn, of Clay, cannot be considered a hoodoo.

This Pop legislature isn't so bad after all It has already killed more than 900 crank bills, and among them were most of those which threatened repudiation or confisca tion. The most threatening measures still alive are those directed against railroads and insurance companies. It is probable that a great deal of foolish legislation will yet be passed, but there is not much danger of many measures going through which will upset things.

In the Oklahoma senate the other day : plous senator arose and demanded that the presiding officer compel the senators to stop laughing and telling stories while the chaplain was praying. He declared that such a noise was kept up that he could not hear a word the good man was saving.

Judge Moore, of the district court, set side a jury verdict at Abilene the other day under rather peculiar circumstances It was in a civil action and the jury arrived at their verdict by each setting down he sum which he believed the plaintif should receive, after which these several sums were added together, divided twelve, and the quotient accepted as the verdict. Judge Moore said that it was obvious that a verdict so reached did not represent the honest convictions of a sin gle member of the jury and, therefore, he would set it aside.

It appears that it is going to be impos sible to get rid of Anderson Grey, the Sumner county man who has had so

much notoriety through that hypnotis murder case. The Wellington Mail says he has prepared suits against several citizens of Wellington, who are prominent in business and official circles, on the charge of maintaining improper relations with Mrs. Grey while he was in the penitentlary. He is also preparing damage suit against a lot of people whom he charges with conspiring to send him to prison The Mail says it is just simply impossible for Grey to live without a lawsuit of some

sort on his hands. Commenting on the published account of a young Methodist preacher in Kansas who vent into court and besmirched the reputation of his own mother, Pap Eckert, of the Arkansas City Traveler, says he knows of a case almost as bad at his old home in Illinois. Last week Governor Tanner appointed a new labor commissioner for that state and of him Eckert says: "It was he who threatened to dislocate our alabaster countenance because we went on his mother's bond to keep her out of jail. The only crime which she had committed was contracting a bill which she was un able to pay."

Everybody in Kansas will remember Captain Henry Baker, who formerly lived at Salina, and Captain Jake Admire, who was the linchpin of Osage county. were inseparable friends for years and after both went to Oklahoma they became

greater cronies than ever. If we may believe a report which Dave Leahy sends from Kingfisher, however, the entente cordiale has been broken between the two and they do not even speak to each other as they pass by. It came about through a dispute over a jovial song which the set in which both moved were in the habit of singing upon certain convivial song has seventy-two occasions. This verses, each of which is a repetition of the others. The first two lines of the first and all succeeding verses are:

"There came from the woods An old squaw and her Indian."

This was Captain Baker's version, but Captain Admire took issue with him by declaring that the lines went in this manner

"There came from the plains An old squaw and her Indian." The difference between the gentlemen was whether the squaw came from the 'woods" or the "plains," and to an outsider it would appear a trivial cause for quarrel, indeed. But both of the men are neadstrong and willful and both insisted that his own version was right and the ther a base imitation. Admire insisted that it must have been the plains for there were no woods in those parts, and Baker responded that no one but a chump would suppose the song was written for Oklahoma. Finally Admire announced his ability to whip any man who said the squaw came from the woods and Baker bellig ently responded that he could mop the earth with any galoot who said she came rom the plains. Mutual friends interfered. and they have been busy ever since trying to fix up the quarrel between the two old comrades.

The people of Kansas have always held General Alfred Pleasanton, who recently died at Washington, in cherished memory He was entitled to much of the glory of whipping General Price at the battle of the Blue in September of 1864, through which saved from being overrun by

According to a Washington paper Pleasanton had lived at a retired hotel there for more than twenty years, during the last eight years of which he secluded himself in his rooms and never left them. Only his most intimate friends were admitted to his presence and he was almost as much of a hermit as though he lived alone on an island in midocean. "No one," says the Washington paper, "ever knew the reason why he had immured himself between four walls. He had led up to the time his strange fancy struck him a life of conviviality and good fellowship. For years he never slept save when the sun was shining, spending his entire nights in the comleast, they haven't a title that will stand pany of the men about town. General Pleasanton was not well off in a worldly sense, and lived on an allowance from his family. Three or four years ago, however, by the death of a brother and two sisters, but he in no wise changed his mode of life. He began, however, to devote himself to acts of charity, and his sole occupation was in finding needy persons whom he could assist. No publicity was ever given

to his acts of kindness. "His only visitor in the recent past was the wife of General Gibson, of the army, who was his devoted friend. On his 73d birthday, which fell on the 7th of last January, Mrs. Gibson brought him a bunch of flowers, and he was overjoyed at this sweet remembrance of the anniversary.

"The faded remnants of the flowers were on the table in the room where he died this morning. Once in a while he would see some old comrade from a distance, but to all others he denied himself. His seclusion did not sour him in his intercourse with those dear to him. He was unusually bright and entertaining, and never wear ed talking over his army experiences, be ng fond of reciting those with humorous tone. His fund of personal stories about he famous men he had served with was mmense, and of them all he seemed to regard Harney, of the Second dragoons, as he best soldier and the best friend he even knew.

"If there was one thing that the genera hated to hear worse than another it was to hear some one revile the men of the South for the part they took in the rebellion He had fought them as hard as any one and, while not admitting the right or justice of their course, had learned to respect their bravery and honor their courage. On night, in Godfrey's saloon, where in the old days he met his comrades nightly, a mar came in and proceeded to attack the char acter and courage of the Southern soldiers Pleasanton looked at him and gave a star of recognition. Arising from his chair he asked if the man knew him. The stranger

said he did not.
"I am Alfred Pleasanton," replied the general. "I had you drummed out of my camp for cowardice before Antietam. Get out of this place, sir."

The man hung his head and hurried out Recent Archaeological Discoveries.

Frem the New York Tribune. An article on recent archaelogical dis-coveries in Babylonia, which Professor A. II. Sayce has prepared for the Contempo rary Review, has attracted general atten-tion. It cannot but be gratifying to Americans that these discoveries, which will un doubtedly revolutionize the accepted chronology of the world, were made by an American, Professor Hilprecht, the director of the Babylonian expedition of the University of Pennsylvania. The most impor tant and at the same time most sensational result of his labors, carried on in the face of enormous difficulties, was the discovery of the ancient Babylonian city of Nippur, of which there had previously been no his torical record. It is fair to say, however, that Professor Hilprecht's success was largely made possible by the work of two previous directors, the Rev. Dr. John P. Peters, of this city, and J. H. Haynes.

Nippur was one of the oldest, if not the oldest, of the cities of Sumerian Babylonia and reached a high degree of civilization, according to a conservative estimate, at least 6,000 years before the Christian or 2,000 years before the creation of the world, according to the popular chronology Its magnificent temple was dedicated to th god called by the Sumerians Mul-il, or "the lord of the ghost world," who afterward became Bel, or Baal, when the Semites supplanted the Sumerians. It is among the ruins of this temple of Bel, rich in archaeological remains, that the American explorers have been working since 1888 Professor Hilprecht, whose competency for the work is acknowledged by Professor Sayce, says that we can no longer "hesi-tate to date the founding of the temple of Bel and the first settlem somewhere between 6,000 and 7,000 B. C. possibly even earlier." And the chronolog-ical tablets and other remains which have een unearthed by the American explorers abundantly bear out this statement. Hitherto Egypt has been regarded as the seat

of the oldest known civilization; but, for

awarded to Babylonia. cism. We have no space here to explain the nethod by which these conclusions are G. H. Hepworth, in New York Herald.

reached, except to say that the Babylon-lans, like the Egyptians, kept a careful record of each king's reign on tablets, each year being marked by the salient event hat occurred in it. Many thousands these tablets have been discovered and deriphered, and from them a chronology has een constructed which, in the opinion of archaeologists, must be approximately cor-

Nor do the archaeologists rst content with showing that the world is 2,000 or 3,000 years older than it is commonly supposed to be. They find monuments and evidences of still older civilization, when and hardly lifted above their pictorial forms. Far below the foundations of the temple of Nippur, says Professor Sayce. may yet be found relics of the beginnings of Eabylonian writing. But what has already been found is of absorbing interest to the student of history, and, we may add, to the student of the Bible also. By no means all of the hundred thousand ablets discovered have yet been read, but those that have been read throw a flood of new light on the character and extent of early Babylonian civilization ages before he time when Adam and Eve posed to be in the Garden of Eden. It is, indeed, this reversal of the old

hronology founded on the Biblical record, hat will excite the greatest popular dis-It is true that the popular chronology is simply that of Archbishop Usher, but he constructed it from the data fur-nished in the Bible, and no one who accepts the Bible as literally and infallibly true, not only in substance, but in detail, can accept the conclusion of the archaeologists that the world is more than 6,000 years old. From the point of view of the old-fashioned believer in the Bible no amount of evidence furnished by ancient records can possibly impugn the literal truthfulness of the Bib narrative. Christian men like Di Peters, however, will see in the revelation: f archaeology a valuable help toward the true interpretation of the Bible. It will acentuate the fact that the Bible is an in allible guide in faith and morals simply, and not in history or science; but whatever view of archaeology may be taken by Chris tions, the student of history will find it both fascinating and instructive.

Has the Individual No Rights?

rom the Chicago Chronicle. A Kansas City divine, who seems to have slight conception of personal liberty, in sists that the legislature of Missouri shall compel a bachelor at the age of 22 years to pay a fine or license of \$100, to be increased \$100 yearly up to the age of 30, and if this age find him not married then, like any other felon or public enemy of a dangerous character he is to be imprisoned for life. Proposed legislation of this character is not unlike the entire line of sumpt uary legislation which attempts to regulate what a man shall wear. It is of kind with that other legislation which would determine what a man shall eat and what he shall drink.

People whose minds run in the direction of legislation of this character are practically persons who believe that the state is the be-all and the end-all of human existence, that the individual must live for the state and for the state alone, whereas the American republic was established to secure something like individual liberty. and if it is to survive the right of every individual in the community to follow that pursuit which he will to go into business or abstain from going into business, to marry or not to marry, to vote or not to vote, to worship in a church or in the fields or not to worship at all, to bear himself how he will under any given circumstances so long as he does not trespas upon the right of any other individual, must be inviolately maintained.

This is America; it is not Sparta. This is the nineteenth century after Christ, not the fifth before.

Forcing men or women to marry is not a proper function of any other than a strictly paternalistic government such as Sparta. What the reverend gentleman in Missouri would have he scarce knows himself. There is already sufficient legalized pr tution by marriages that are fruitless, and compulsory marriage, like compulsory education or compulsory any other thing more evil than possible good.

Is Dr. Buckley a Heretie?

From the Chicago Record. Dr. Buckley's declaration at the New York Methodist preachers' meeting on Monday that he "did not believe in the infallibility of the English version of the Bible," and that he was of opinion "that there were scarcely four men in the meeting who did," is not so surprising as an expression of his opinion as that he should give expression to it.

Dr. Buckley is the apostle of conservatism in the Methodist church. Indeed, he is so conservative in the expression of his conservatism that he usually gives the impression that he is more conservative than he really is. The clergymen who intimated that he was becoming as heretical as Dr. Lyman Abbott must have been carried way by the fervor of the debate. Dr. Buckley is the exact opposite of Dr. Abbott, and believes that much of what is called higher criticism is doing great harm and is destroying the faith of many in the Bible. At the same tice he believes that there are some discrepancies in the accepted English version of the Bible, due in part to errors in copying manuscripts, in part to the imperfect knowledge of translators and in part to changes in the

Doubtless every minister in the use of commentaries to throw light upon passages of scripture from which he selected texts for his sermons has practically admitted Dr. Buckley's assumption. Nevertheless the simple fact that he has expressed even in a limited sense dispelief in the infallibility of the Bible will come as a shock to many of his conservative friends.

The New Torrens Land Act.

From the Chicago Times-Herald. A carefully drawn bill has been prepared for the re-enactment of the Torrens land transfer system, which it is hoped will ore the defects in the statute of 1895 pointed out by the supreme court. It takes away whatever judicial authority was imposed by the former act upon the registrar, and confides it to a court, which in the first instance is to say whether a prima a certificate of title. When the certificate s thus authorized the subsequent proceedings are to be conducted as under the first et. The law will have to be submitted to the people at the next election in November, and as it will most undoubtedly be bitterly fought at the polls by the interests hostile to it, it behooves the legislature to make this law conform as nearly as possible in its popular features to the recent act. that had the approval of the people in the lection of 1895.

In the act proposed there are two changes which ought to be well considered. One is, making the time of limitation for attacking a certificate of title two years in-stead of five, and the other, increasing the

amount of the fees for registration. The latter may be necessary on account of the proceedings in court, but we are inlined to think that a two years' limitation will subject the act to a stronger, or at east a more plausible, attack before the people than might otherwise which may have weight in some quarters. Not that the legislature has not the exclusive power to establish the period of limtetion for the bringing of suits, but when to establish a rather long period for the ringing of suits affecting land titles, two ears may seem too short.

The criticism is made suggestively and upen the policy of the limit, and not upon he principle. The Times-Herald earnestly favors this system of land transfer, and ex pects to see it ultimately established in th state. But inasmuch as this law must again run the gauntlet of the popular vote us. H and of the supreme court, nothing in it in it."

the present, at least, that honor must be should be left open to even a carping criti-

Sirs, what must I do to be saved?-Acts The most desirable thing in life is to feel that you are protected against possible danger. If on forecasting the near future you could be assured that you will be safe from physical harm and from the moral evils that lie in ambush, the causes of un-

happiness would be almost wholly eliminated. And if some one in authority could convince you that in the far off future you will be equally safe, in spite of anything and everything that death itself can do, and that on the other side of the grave you will be as well and as happy as you have been on this side, he would clear your path of nearly all obstructive and depressing thoughts.

There is in the universal heart an un uttered dread of all to-morrows, especially of the great To-morrow, and that subtle dread interferes with the wholeness of our manhood and our womanhood. It is not what we know that makes us tremble, but what we falsely think we have no means of knowing. We sometimes guess that we have nothing to fear either in the Now or the Then, and that guess is like a sudden ourst of sunshine coming through the window on a frosty, cloudy winter day. If the guess could be transformed to a certainty God in prayer.

there would be very little left to ask of Human nature has got itself twisted out of all normal shape. It seems to have a great many false foundation stones, not God given but man hewn, on which it builds, and when we live in the houses which we erect we are in constant fear of cyclones and blizzards which may at any noment-so we think-overturn our happiness and separate us from those we love. Life is regarded as an awful responsibility instead of a constant rejoicing, and the spirit of evil seems to us to be stronger than the spirit of goodness. We shiver and tremble as though the Father had locked the door of His kingdom and gone off to an inconceivable distance. The world to many of us-yes, to many of us who think we are a world without a present religious-is deity-a dark, gloomy world, which we are foolish enough sometimes to call "a vale of Can you possibly conceive of a tears." world irradiated by the love of God being 'a vale of tears"? That is, a woeful,

wretched, miserable place to live in When time was young Adam and Eve vere just as much in heaven, though they lived on the earth, as the angels above hem were. It was all God's house, heaven in the upper stories and earth in the lower. The same roof covered both And though it was impossible for the good folks in the basement to go up the gol stairs beyond a certain limit, it was a frequent occurrence that those who lived above came down and ministered to the who lived below. God Himself was a present help in time of trouble, and the worlds were interlaced in their interests. their hopes and their aspirations.

All that is like one of the pictures by Raphael or Murillo-something to be treas ured as beyond price, but also something precious faith gone? To what far region nas it betaken itself? Can we do anything that will enable us to rescue it from the oblivion into which it has fallen?

For one I stoutly deny that our fore athers had any good which we their children cannot enjoy. And so I declare that eaven has not gone away from us, but that we have gone away from heaven There is no change in God, and if things do not go right with us we must seek for this change in our own souls. Do you not be lieve that if you earnestly determine to do God's will, just as the prophets of old did. He will "manifest Himself" unto you exactly as He did unto them? Why should Ha not? Has He forgotten the promise of lost the power to fulfil it? Has anything hannened that has limited His omning tence? Is it not the same old earth that it always has been, and are not the laws which govern it the same as ever? Has any spirit of evil put a padlock on the oors above, that no dear one can cro the threshold, earthward bound?

What, then, must we do to be saved? Saved from what? From temptation from remorse, from stubbornness and obstinacy in time of trial, from the haggard, thin visaged, ghoulish doubts which haunt us and sneer at us when we most need help and

nost eagerly cry out for it. The Christ-all roads lead to Jerusalem and when we are in trouble the Master will tell us what to do-has put the whole matter into a nutshell. His faith in God wa invincible, and by means of that faith He held sway over the forces of the universe to such extent that miracles were common

I believe that the soul which searches after God-especially by means of hours of self-examining solitude-will find Him, so clearly and unmistakably find Him that it will be as truly transfigured as was Christ on the mountain., Solitude, solitude, you and the Spirit of the universe in company therein lies the secret of spiritual excellence. Shut your poor, pitiful self out of doors and let God come into your house. Think of the destiny, the grandeur of a soul, God's finger marks on it, and thus forget the charm of physical pleasures One glimpse of the Almighty and everything else will grow dim. Religion is sir ply looking into the Father's face, life is the road home, and death is nothing morthan the sound of the bolt as angels unlock the door to let us pass.

The Evening Primrose.

The earliest lark had climbed to meet The sun and though the forest spread Its rustling skirts o'er vanished feet, The light prints told of morning's tread.

While sifted through the bashful gloom, The soft daylight fell pink and fair-Till earth's cheek wore a flush of bloom, Though Time had planted furrows there. For O a beauteous sisterhood

Of blossoms there together grew-And there a little primrose stood As Nature drew its curtains to! And as it dreamed the east grew shy

With tremors of a rose-coco

Till like a golden butterfly Afar, scarce tilting on the noon The sun, in sky-fields sloping west, Had settled at the edge of sight With still, clapped wings as if its quest Had been the starry lawn of night-

When lo! the primrose raised its head

To peep from out a curtain fold, And as I passed the twilight spread For me, a little face of gold. Although 'twas but a little face: Though but a primrose Time had sown. None other saw it shyly raise

The beauty that was mine alone, And somewhere O if I but see In passing, dropped from hour to hour Down through the years, Love has for me A little flower, a little flower!

-William Emory Griffith.

From the Indianapolis Journal. "That was a queer story about a man in Minnesota being treed by wolves while on his way to be married," said the shoe clerk "Most remarkable exhibition of animal

intelligence I know of," said the Checrful Idiot. "Animal intelligence?" "Yes. They must have realized how ten-

der he would be at that time."

From the Chicago Tribune. "I heard of a young woman who was ca-oled into taking off her hat at a theater the other night by two men sitting beaind her, who made audible remarks about the beauty of her hair.'

"I'm afraid it would be a little dangerous to try that game on this girl in 1100 red the other end Bob inge us. Her hair has a strong tinge of red the other end Bob inge us. Her hair has a strong tinge of red the other end Bob inge

OF CURRENT INTEREST.

The height of extravagance for children seems to be reached when toys are made of olid silver, but this is what little New Yorkers are playing with in these days. Little lolls' ter sets, which the last generation of little girls were only too glad to use n pewter and china, must now be of silver, and Miss Baby, even at a very tender age. is pretty sure to ask if it is "real silver." Then for her doll's house she may have silver furniture-tables, chairs, desks and, ndeed, most of the pieces she needs to fully equip the mansion, even to the coal cuttle and fire irons. Watering pots and garden tools are not forgotten, and there s a churn and an "old oaken bucket." The small boys will probably have as much un as the girls with the little silver wagons, each an exact reproduction of the thing. They are made in every shape, from a sulky to a four-in-hand coach and from a hay wagon to a mail phaeton. Every detail is perfect; there are wheels that turn and even "cramp" shafts and poles and everything but the borses.

Mr. Prater, of St. Louis, who has studied the cornstalk scientifically, thinks that within a few years the farmers of the country will be receiving from \$15 to \$25 per acre for their cornstalks. Mills will be established in the South and other parts of the country, he says, and pretty nearly whole crop of cornstalks-at any rate, that part of the crop which is grown on farms contiguous to railway lines-will be used in the mills. The market for the manufactured products is already made, as the products will be staple articles in constant demand. Of the products that may be evolved from the matured cornstalk-the stalk which has borne its grain-Mr. Prater enumerates cellulose, celluloid, smokeless gunpowder, lacquer, cattle feed, roofing material, and a material that will answer every purpose of papier mache. Green stalks, he says, are rich in glucose, and will yield "a better quality and a finer sugar with less expense than can be made from the cane of Louisiana."

Professor Verrill, of Yale, has described the devilfish which was recently found dead on the Florida coast south of St. Augustine. It was cast ashore December 5, and instead of decaying rapidly, the flesh has dried and hardened in the sun until it resembles leather in its toughness. Six horses with a block and tackle were required to drag the monster out of the sand and to a place higher up on the beach. The front part of the body is missing, perhaps eaten devirish's natural enemy, the sperm whale, and what remains is twentylength. Its breadth is seven feet, and the weight of what remains is estimated at seven tons. Professor Verrill thinks the live weight of the creature must have been about eighteen to twenty tons. Each of its eight arms is about 100 feet long and as thick as the mast of a large vessel, and each of these armed with hundreds of saucer shaped suckers, the largest of which are a foot in diameter.

Last summer in Paris a certain husband and wife were breakfasting at a little out of the way restaurant, where they were fated to encounter the toughest piece of eefsteak their teeth had ever tackled. Well, I knew that it was common in Revolutionary times," remarked the wife, "but I thought that it was all over now." "What was common?" asked the husband, between chews. "Horse steak instead of beef," was the answer. "Surely this article before us isn't of bovine origin; its equine pedigree is plain as daylight." Not after this the same husband and wife were breakfasting one morning in Ireland. The steak served them was, if possible, tougher than that that had so tormented their teeth in the French capital. "Ah," remarked the wife, "we got the horse in Paris and in Ireland we get the saddle.'

The inaugural committee at Washington is overwhelmed with requests from citizens all over the country for souvenirs of the inaugural ball. These requests have to be refused. The other day a Republican of St. Charles, Mo., was thus refused, and thereupon he expressed his indignation in "After working like a tiger for McKinley refuse to give gratis such a small affair as an inaugural ball souvenir. You can take your souvenirs and go to - with them." This particular "tiger" was also a cam-paign poet, and had written a song en-titled, "Hang Their Silver Dollars to a

Sour Apple Tree." __ An amendment to the Loud postage bill in the senate practically establishes penny postage on letters. Under the present law the rate of postage on letters is 2 cents an ounce in weight, but this ame provides for a rate of 1 cent for half an ounce. The rate on letters weighing an ounce remains unchanged. The average weight of first class matter, as shown by the postal department, is not only not close to an ounce, but, in fact, falls considerably below half an ounce.

Few people, even in Canton, knew that Mr. McKinley owns a farm. As far as can be learned, he never has referred in his speeches to his being a practical farmer. When the Wilson bill went into effect, and he was forced to sell his large flock of sheep because there was no money in their fleeces, he swallowed the bitter medicine with the rest of the farmers of the country and told the manager of his farm lieved prices would be better under the

One of the features of the sportsman's show to be given at Madison Square garden March 13 will be the national revolver tournament. The intention is to find out for the first time who is the best pistol shot in America. There will be three principal matches-police, mil open. Thirty shots will be fired by each contestant, and the prizes will the annual struggle to retain them.

The latest munifestation of the new woman idea comes from Minneapolis, where a saloon is to be started of women, for women, and by women. There is to woman proprietor; there are to be women "barkeeps," and only women patrons will be allowed within the portals. Every liquid to all the brands of obnoxious cigarettes.

The late Frederick Taylor, of New York, left \$25,000 to a niece, Miss Carrie Jewell, on condition that she does not become a nun. young woman is an inmate of the Sacred Heart convent in St. Joseph, and now she i s wrestling with her co The sister superior thinks she will enter the sisterhood regardless of family opposition.

One of a team of oxen owned by J. M. McKenney, whose farm is on Morgan's bay, Surry, Me., has shed all its coat and the skin has darkened and become polished and yet it is apparently healthy. The ex grows fat and works and thrives some treatment which the other gets, except that it is blanketed at night. Max O'Rell has decided to abandon the

so successful, and take to the stage proper. This spring he will begin an English tour with an adaptation of one of his own works, called "On the Continong." The piece is a farcical comedy in three acts. Women in Canada will soon practice law as barristers. The Ontario law school some

lecture platform, upon which he has been

ime ago passed rules to this effect, with the following regulations as to dress: They must be bareheaded, wear black gown over a black dress and white collars and The wife of the next vice president evidently is a firm believer in the principle of patronizing home industries, for one of the

Paterson (N. J.) mills, of which Mr. Hobart

is a director, has woven for her a beautiful piece of silk which she has had made into an inauguration gown. A Michigan evangelist recently portrayed hell as a large hall, at one end of which a walking match was going on, while at

the other end Bob Ingersell was delivering